

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended for further clarification. New claims 3-6 have been added. Support for the amendments to claim 1 and for new claims 3-6 can be found at page 15 of the Specification. Claims 1-6 are now pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The reference AG, Japanese Application No. 59-159498 included in the IDS filed September 17, 2003 was not acknowledged by the Examiner in the PTO-1449 attached to the Office Action mailed March 10, 2005. However, the IDS filed September 17, 2003 states that a "concise explanation of what is presently understood to be the relevance of the non-English language publication is set forth in the application" (see item 2(b)). Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge this reference.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1 AND 2 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH:

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the rejection. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1 AND 2 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY LAMPI ET AL. (U.S. PATENT NO. 4,870,592; HEREINAFTER "LAMPI"):

The present invention as recited in claim 1, for example, relates to a robot system comprising a robot and at least one apparatus which is driven by a servomotor and carries out operation in cooperation with the robot. The robot system further comprises a detection unit for detecting operator's approach to the specified apparatus including at least one apparatus which carries out operation in cooperation with the robot or operator's entry to an off-limit region set for the specified apparatus, provided for each specified apparatus.

The robot system further comprises a unit for connecting and interrupting power supply to the servomotor which drives the specified apparatus, provided for each specified apparatus, and an emergency stop unit for receiving a notice of operator's approach or entry from the detection unit to bring the robot system into an emergency stopped state, wherein power supply to the robot and to each specified apparatus is interrupted. The robot system further comprises a unit for monitoring, for each specified apparatus, a connection and interruption state of power supply to the servomotor which drives the specified apparatus, and canceling the notice from the detection unit to the emergency stop unit, for the specified apparatus to which power supply is

interrupted.

Lampi is similar to the related art disclosed in the present invention at page 4 of the Specification. That is, Lampi discloses the operator's approach within a machine stage region once a gate is opened by a floor mount switch which provides a signal of the presence of the operator (see column 16, lines 12-17). Further, when an operator opens the gate, associated information is monitored by a limit switch (see column 16, lines 35-48). Further, as the operator enters the maintenance region of the instant machine stage such entry will be signaled to the program controller by a floor mat switch.

Lampi fails to disclose "a detection unit detecting operator's approach to the specified apparatus...[and] an emergency stop unit for receiving a notice of operator's approach or entry from the detection unit to bring the robot system into an emergency stopped state, wherein power supply to the robot and to each specified apparatus is interrupted, " as recited in amended claim 1.

Further, Lampi fails to disclose " a unit for monitoring, for each specified apparatus, a connection state and an interruption state of power supply to the servomotor...[and] canceling the notice from the detection unit to the emergency stop unit, for the specified apparatus to which power supply is interrupted," as recited in amended claim 1:

Instead, Lampi discloses that any movement of the robot under improper control conditions toward the region being maintenance would be blocked by the safety frame, door and or barrier, such movement is detected by an impact sensor for appropriate corrective procedure (see column 16, lines 41-45). That is, in Lampi power to the robot is not interrupted. Instead, a barrier or safety frame is there to block any movement of the robot.

Therefore, the teaching of Lampi is fundamentally different from that of the present invention. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. CONCLUSION:

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore, defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: June 9, 2005

By: Deidre M. Davis
Deidre M. Davis
Registration No. 52,797

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501